

AGS news

Newsletter of the Alpine Garden Society

Last chance to book for conference in new venue

Time is running out to book for this year's AGS conference, which runs alongside our Annual General Meeting and will be held at a new venue.

The theme of the conference, on Saturday and Sunday, November 7 and 8, is 'Reaching the Heights' and the speakers will all present lectures that have not been heard before.

The event will be held at the Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon, a four-star riverside location in the heart of this popular and attractive market town.

Speakers will include Bob and Rannveig Wallis on high Turkish plants, Christopher Grey-Wilson on Nepal, and Robert Rolfe on cushion plants. Ireland's Martin Walsh will give a



The riverside location of the Holiday Inn at Stratford-upon-Avon, the AGS Conference venue

presentation entitled 'Bhutan – In the Footsteps of Ludlow and Sherriff'. Geoff Rollinson, one of the AGS's leading growers of cushion plants, will provide a practical demonstration on their cultivation.

Mark Hanger, who led the AGS tour to New Zealand earlier this year, will deliver the E.B. Anderson Memorial Lecture at the AGM, which is free to all

Continued on page 3

CONFERENCE BOOKING FORM: BACK PAGE

Autumn Bulb Day 4

Snowdrop Day 11

Book Shop 14

Tours 24

AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore,
Worcestershire, WR10 3JP, UK

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Registered charity No. 207478

Annual subscriptions:

Single (UK and Ireland) £33*

Family (two at same address) £37*

Junior (under 18/student) £15

Overseas single US\$56 £35

Overseas family US\$62 £38

* £2 deduction for direct debit
subscribers

AGS CENTRE OPENING HOURS

Normal opening hours are
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm,
but if you plan to visit please
call first to check that the
Centre will be open. The AGS
garden is open every day.

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Send items for the December 2015
issue of AGS News to Jackie Cooper
at the address above or email
jackie@alpinegardensociety.net.
The deadline is October 31, 2015.

NOTICEBOARD

AGS shows and plant sales



September 26: Kent Autumn Show

October 3: Loughborough Autumn Show

October 10: Newcastle Show

October 17: Harlow Carr Show

Full details of each show are in the AGS
Shows Handbook, on the AGS website
and in the shows calendar that was
included with the December 2014
issue of AGS News.

If you haven't entered one of our
autumn shows before, why not have a
go this year?

There are seasonal classes for
plants in cone, seed or fruit and plants
showing autumn colour. You can also
bring along any surplus plants to sell at
our members' plant stalls.



Conference programme

Continued from page 1

AGS members. Mark will also present a
second lecture to conference delegates
on the Sunday.

Mark graduated in botany from Otago
University and is one of New Zealand's
leading natural history guides. He has
set up, with his wife Marina, Nature
Quest New Zealand, which specialises
in nature, ornithological and botanical
tours. Mark has an in-depth knowledge
of Australasia's natural history and is
planning future AGS tours to Western
Australia and Tasmania.

Members can book either residential
or day places at the Conference and
can choose to attend on both days
or just one day. Prices for residential
delegates include accommodation,
hot buffet lunches on both days and
the Conference Dinner on Saturday, as
well as coffee and tea during breaks.
Day places include lunch and coffee
and tea. The Conference Dinner will be
followed by a plant auction.

The conference will start at 3.30pm
on the Saturday, after the AGM and the
E. B. Anderson Memorial Lecture.

A booking form for the AGS
Conference is on the back
page of this issue of AGS News.
Alternatively, you may book on our
website or by calling the AGS Centre
on 01386 554790.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

**AGM and E.B. Anderson Memorial
Lecture – free to all AGS members**

10am Registration & coffee

10.30 Annual General Meeting &
presentation of Society Awards

12 noon Presentation of Show Awards

12.45 Lunch

2.00 E.B. Anderson Memorial Lecture:
Mark Hanger – Echoes of Gondwana:
Alpines above Dinosaur Forests

3.00 Close of AGM

(Coffee will be served in the bar area)

BEGINNING OF CONFERENCE

3.30 Opening remarks & lecture: Bob &
Rannveig Wallis – High Turkish Plants

5.00 Coffee

5.30 Lecture: Christopher Grey-Wilson
– Nepal

6.30 End of session

7.45 Conference Dinner, auction/quiz

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

09.30am Registration

10.00 Lecture: Martin Walsh – Bhutan:
In the Footsteps of Ludlow and Sherriff

11.00 Coffee

11.30 Lecture: Mark Hanger, Artistry
Above the Treeline – Insights into
endemic Australasian alpine flora

12.30 Lunch

2.00 Practical workshop: Geoff
Rollinson – Growing cushion plants

3.00 Lecture: Robert Rolfe – Cushions

4.00 Closing remarks and coffee

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!

AGS Autumn Bulb Day

Sunday, September 27, 2015, from 9.30am-4pm

Admission by advance ticket only

At the Frank Parkinson Lecture Theatre, Pershore College,
Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire.

Tickets for lectures, plant sales, tea and coffee:

AGS members £24, non-members £34A

n optional lunch is available for £10, bookable in advance

Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre.

SPEAKERS

Dr John David, RHS Head of Horticultural Taxonomy: Hardy Nerines.

Richard Hobbs of Walking & Wildlife Holidays: Colchicum.

Dr Christopher Grey-Wilson: Flowers of the Greek Autumn.

David Stephens of the Crocus Group: Crocuses.



Fritillaria Group of the Alpine Garden Society

AGM and Autumn Meeting

October 25, 2015,

at New Haw Community Centre, Woodham Lane, New Haw,
Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3ND, from 9.30am to 4pm

Please note change of venue. Visitors welcome.

Plants and bulbs will be on sale during the day

The speakers will be Christopher Grey-Wilson
and Bob & Rannveig Wallis

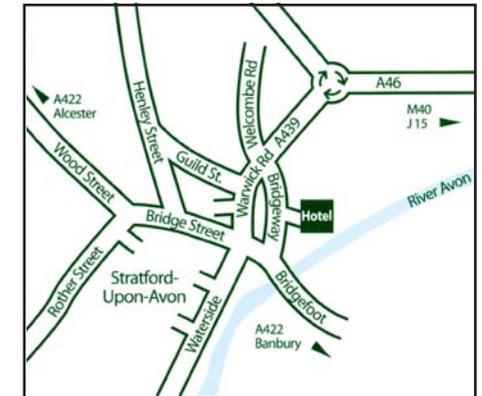
More information at www.fritillaria.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 7, 2015

The Annual General Meeting of the Alpine Garden Society will take place on Saturday, November 7, 2015, at 10.30am at the Holiday Inn, Bridgefoot, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6YR.

(The hotel is situated in the centre of Stratford). The programme for the AGM can be seen on page 3.



AGENDA

1. To receive and confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on November 8, 2014.
2. To receive the report of the Board of Trustees.
3. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's report and accounts.
4. To elect a President, Treasurer and Officers to serve for the ensuing year (see Note 1 below).
5. To elect two Trustees to serve for four years (see Note 2 below).
8. To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year.
9. Any Other Items of Business as notified to the President/Society Director in accordance with the rules laid down in the Constitution.
10. Presentation of the Society's Awards.

Notes on the election of Officers and members of the Trustee Board:

1. Officers retire annually and are eligible for re-election as per rule 7.1.3.1 of the Constitution. The following Officers are eligible for reappointment and are prepared to continue to serve the AGS: President (Mr David Haselgrove), Director of Seed Exchange (Mrs Diane Clement), Website Director (Mr Jim McGregor), Treasurer (Professor John Galloway).
2. In accordance with rule 7.1.4, two Trustees retire annually and are not eligible for re-election for one year.

LUNCH TICKETS: ADVANCE BOOKING ESSENTIAL

A two-course hot and cold buffet lunch (main course and dessert) will be available in the hotel's restaurant, including vegetarian options. The cost will be £16.50 per head including VAT. Lunch bookings MUST be made in advance and accompanied by a cheque payable to the 'Alpine Garden Society' and sent to the AGS Centre (address on page 2) by Friday, October 23. Pre-booked lunch vouchers will be available from the AGS book sales stand on the day. Morning and afternoon coffee and tea are provided free of charge.

Plant sales: A members' plant sales table will be available.

Car parking: The hotel has ample car parking.

TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS

Mr Roy Barker (London)

Proposed by Jim McGregor and seconded by Diane Clement

Roy has a general interest in gardening and plants, having gardened in pots in London flats since his days as a student studying engineering. He now has a small garden of mostly hardy perennials in Dorset, with some alpines in pots, as well as an allotment of fruit and vegetables. Roy first discovered alpines at AGS shows in Sussex with his parents, who are long-term members of the Society, and he has been a member of the AGS for over 20 years. He has been a member of a local group throughout that time and has been Secretary of the Central London group for the last two years. He has helped at the London Show and the AGS Chelsea stand for the last two years. He is an enthusiastic walker and has visited some of the mountains of Austria, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and Greece as well as exploring the UK. He works as a database manager for a marketing agency in London. As a Trustee, his enthusiasm for alpines and his marketing skills will enhance the Society for the future.

Mr Peter G. Liverman (West Sussex)

Proposed by Peter Erskine and seconded by Mary Randall

Peter has been a member of the AGS and the West Sussex Group for many years although, he admits, not always a regular attendee of the group through the 1990s. He is a trained commercial grower and specialised in year-round chrysanthemums in four acres of heated glasshouses. He gained a Nuffield Farming Scholarship in 1986 and was an active member of the NFU's specialist horticultural branch in West Sussex, sitting on many of their committees, and was chairman for two years. Since 2003 he has been a self-employed gardener and has used his commercial skills to install plant support and irrigation systems. He is now reducing his client list so he can devote more time to the Society and concentrate on his own garden, which, he admits, suffers from 'cobbler's children with no shoes' syndrome!

ANNUAL AWARDS FOR 2014

The Kath Dryden Award

Alan Furness has been nominated for this award in recognition of his expertise in the cultivation of the genus *Celmisia*. At his home in Northumberland, Alan has 45 or more taxa established and has built up his collection from wild-sourced seed sent to him by other enthusiasts. In turn he has distributed seed and plants of many little-grown species to other fellow enthusiasts. He has maintained meticulous records and written detailed articles about their cultivation. Alan has also exhibited *celmisias* at numerous AGS and also SRGC shows, winning a Farrer Medal at the AGS Bakewell show this year, the first such for the genus in some 20 years. He has done much work on selecting unique, novel hybrid clones and 'grexes' of real garden merit and some of these may shortly receive commercial distribution. Alan has opened his collection to other specialist gardeners and engendered an enthusiasm for the genus.

The Ferrier Charlton Award

Diane Clement has been heavily involved in the work of the AGS Seed Exchange since 2002 and was appointed as Director of the Exchange in 2011. She has worked unstintingly

on all aspects of the Exchange and has introduced changes to streamline and modernise the process. She catalogues all the seed in preparation for the production of the list and keeps abreast of changes in legislation and naming. Diane keeps very detailed records of all seed received, packed and distributed. The AGS Seed Exchange is the world's largest seed exchange and is run extremely efficiently under the leadership of Diane. There is no task that she has not been willing to undertake and she continues to devote a tremendous amount of time and energy to the whole process. She is truly deserving of this award.

Award of Honour

David Hoare has run the Kent Spring Show for the last 12 years. Following the closure of the Guildford Show in 2006, David stepped in and offered to run an autumn show in Kent to replace the loss of the Horsham Show. Since that time he has taken responsibility for the organisation of both Kent shows. He has always been conscious of maintaining the highest of display standards, both amateur and professional at both shows. David has been diligent in undertaking good publicity for these events to attract visitors. He has also worked hard to pull in exhibitors, not only from the immediate environs but also further afield, to ensure a high standard of entries at both shows. David is himself a skilled grower and exhibitor of saxifrages. Nurserymen attending the shows have always been assured of a warm welcome. He has also been a very active member of his local group and has assisted with the recruitment new members on national AGS exhibits. David has always carried out his duties efficiently and responsibly and has been a great supporter of the Society and its shows.

Award of Honour

Roger Beecham has been an AGS member for over 25 years and in that time has held a number of roles in the South Lancashire local group. He has been an active group member, organising the monthly meetings and providing plants for the sales table. For the last 14 years he has been responsible for the running of the AGS national show at Southport. Roger has carried out his duties as Show Secretary conscientiously and efficiently. He has also found time to exhibit at AGS shows, receiving two Farrer Medals, and has been keen to pass on his enthusiasm and knowledge to others. With this aim he introduced a successful 'mini-show' to encourage local group members to gain experience in showing. He has opened his garden to the general public on a regular basis and has played an active role in trying to attract more people to join the Society. For many years Roger has been one of the leading organisers of an AGS display at the annual Southport Flower Show. This has resulted in several Gold Medal-winning exhibits that have helped to promote both the local group and the national Society.

AGS Website Award

John Good: Since December 2012, John has kept website readers entertained with a regular blog from his North Wales garden. In 2014, the year covered by this award, the 16 entries in his online diary range from a visit to the new winter garden at Bodnant in January through to a look at shrubs with berries and flowers in his own garden in November and December. John's present garden has been developed over 24 years with a wide range of habitats and plant types, from the smaller alpines to larger shrubs and trees, and he has shared many of these with us in his diary. John Good is a worthy recipient of our Website Award for 2015.

NOTICEBOARD

Local Group Award and Sussex Weald Silver Jubilee Trophy

Mary Williams is a long-standing member of the AGS and has given devoted service to the South Wales Group for 34 years. During that time she has occupied numerous 'officer' positions within the group and is currently its Treasurer. Since the inception of the group Mary has been a stalwart supporter and has also taken on the role of Show Treasurer for the AGS South Wales Show. Mary has performed a wide variety of tasks to support both the group and the show. In addition to her roles as treasurer, she has prepared and served food, taken money on the door and helped to clean up at the end of the event. Through her work as a volunteer at the National Botanic Garden of Wales she has helped to enthuse others with her love of alpinists. This has resulted in the recruitment of new members to the group and to the national AGS. She is an extremely worthy recipient of this award and of the Sussex Weald Jubilee Trophy, which recognises someone who has given outstanding service to a local group.

Local Group Award

Ray Drew has served the Essex group for many years, having served on its committee and also been Chair of the group. He has helped to organise the monthly group competitions and the annual show, as well as staging an educational plant display at these events. Ray has also helped to organise the group presence at events at RHS Garden Hyde Hall, resulting in the recruitment of new members to both the group and the national AGS. On a wider level Ray has also played a key role in the organisation of the AGS Early Spring Show, he gives talks to the group and also to other AGS groups. Ray has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Essex group and has given freely of advice and encouragement with regard to growing alpinists and on the general running of the group, which has helped to make the group so successful. All his many activities make Ray a worthy recipient of this award.

Local Group Award

Barry McWilliam has been a member of the AGS and the North East England group for over 40 years, during which period he has given freely of his time to support both the group and the national Society. He has been Secretary of the group, run the group bookstall, been editor of the group newsletter and currently runs the group seed exchange. For over 20 years he has played a key role in running the members' plant stall at the two AGS national shows organised by the group. In this context he has grown hundreds of plants for sale, helping to generate additional income for both the group and the national Society. Barry has given outstanding service to the group in many different roles and over a long period of time. It is appropriate that his contribution should be recognised with this award.

LITERARY AWARDS – THE ALPINE GARDENER, 2014

The Clarence Elliott Memorial Award

Robert Rolfe: 'The Botanics' [September, pages 266-297]

The Lionel & Joyce Bacon Award

Robin White: 'Assessing dwarf forms of *Daphne cneorum*' [December, pages 374-385]

The Christopher Grey-Wilson Award

Hilary Little: 'The Magic of Patagonia' [March, pages 62-75]

The 2016 AGS desk calendar

Our handy desk calendar features 12 superb images of plants and gardens taken by AGS members. The calendar costs just £4.50, or buy two for £8.

Postage is free in the UK, £2.50 for the rest of Europe and £3.50 for the rest of the world.

To order call the AGS Centre on 01386 554790.



AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPONSOR THE AGS AT CHELSEA

The Alpine Garden Society is looking for sponsors for its display in the Great Pavilion at next year's Chelsea Flower Show. The display helps to fulfil the Society's charitable objectives by promoting the growing of alpine plants to an audience of 160,000 and is an excellent way to recruit new members.

The Society would like to attract financial sponsorship from individuals or businesses. If you run a business that could help in this way, or sponsor us by donating plants or materials, or know a person or a business who might like to help, please let us know. Sponsors will all be acknowledged in a special leaflet about the display, which will be given to Chelsea's visitors. This is a great opportunity to promote your business at the world's greatest flower show!

For further details please contact Christine McGregor, Society Director, at the AGS Centre (details on page 2).

NOTICEBOARD

AGS TRAVEL AWARDS AND GRANTS

Applications for 2016

The Alpine Garden Society considers applications for AGS Travel Awards annually. Applications for these awards must be received by January 31, 2016, at the latest.

TRAVEL AWARDS

Each year the Society gives a limited number of Travel Awards to enthusiasts wishing to gain field experience in the serious study of alpine plants in native habitats. Applications should be for clearly defined projects, though Awards have been made to those wishing to participate in an AGS tour if it complements a particular area of interest.

HENDRY FUND GRANTS

In addition, grants for specific alpine-related projects are available, financed by the E. F. Hendry Fund.

Application forms and further details for Travel Awards and Hendry Fund grants are available from: Jackie Cooper, c/o AGS Centre, or email: jackie@alpinegardensociety.net

MERLIN TRUST & ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

Travel scholarships for 2016

In 1990 the Merlin Trust was founded by the late Valerie Finnis VMH to provide travel grants for young horticulturists. In 2016 the Merlin Trust is offering jointly with the Alpine Garden Society up to six fully paid travel scholarships on AGS-organised plant tours.

Applicants should be enthusiastic about plants and have a particular interest in alpinism. They must be 18

to 35 years of age or in their first five years of a career in horticulture and have British or Irish citizenship. Students of other nationalities are eligible only if they are currently studying at a UK horticultural training establishment.

If you would like to receive information about the tours and an application form, please send your contact details to: Chloe Wells, Secretary, The Merlin Trust, 30 Moor Lane, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1BW.

Email: info@merlin-trust.org.uk



A GREAT DAY OUT FOR GALANTHOPHILES

AGS Snowdrop Day BOOK NOW

NEW VENUE

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Admission is by advance ticket only

At Ford Hall, Lilleshall National Conferencing Centre, Newport, Shropshire TF10 9AT. Ample parking.

Tickets for lectures, plant sales, tea and coffee, two-course lunch:
AGS members £35, non-members £45

Tickets can be obtained from the AGS Centre.

Tickets restricted to AGS members until October 31, 2015.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

- 8.30 Registration, plant sales & coffee
- 10.15 Welcome by David Haselgrove, AGS President
- 10.20 Galanthus as Part of the Family Amaryllidaceae – Julian Sutton
- 11.15 Scottish Snowdrop Introductions – Ian Christie
- 12.00 Plant sales and lunch
- 13.30 Eddie Roberts (title of talk to be confirmed)
- 14.25 The Cultivars of Eranthis – Joe Sharman
- 15.15 Coffee and close at 16.00

NURSERIES ATTENDING WILL INCLUDE:

Monksilver, Avon Bulbs, Glen Chantry, Woodchippings, Anita & David Thorp, plus Rudi Bauer from Germany.

The plant sales will remain open until 4pm when the event will close.

There will be an AGS book stand and merchandise for sale.

Your Seed Exchange needs you!

The Seed Exchange relies on donations from members, so please sort and clean your seed now and send it in by October 10, to the seed receiver on the donor form corresponding to your surname. If you have lost your donor form, which was distributed with the June journal, you can download one from the AGS website. Go to the Seed page, then select Seed Donation. If you have late-ripening seed that you cannot get to us by October 10, please contact me by email with the list of your seed and I will give you alternative posting arrangements. Please do not post to the seed receiver after October 10. Remember that the seed donors get priority when we pick orders because without them there would be no Seed Exchange.

This year we will send overseas members their seed lists in a separate mailing, but to try to keep postage costs as low as possible, we will send lists to UK members with the December journal (which will be posted at the end of November).

The charge for seed orders will remain unchanged this year. UK members will be charged £8 per main order of 30 packets for donors and 23 packets for non-donors. Overseas members will continue to receive one seed order 'free of charge' (included in your membership) but those with family memberships may buy a second seed order for a charge of £8. The cost of surplus seed will remain the same. The easiest way for all members to pay is on the AGS website. This reduces bank charges and greatly reduces the work of our volunteers and staff at Pershore.

We strongly request that you order online if at all possible because it makes the work of the volunteers so much easier and saves us a lot of time and expense. The seed list will go live on the website at the end of November. If you wish to use the online ordering system, you do not need to wait until you receive your posted copy of the list. Please watch the website for information and a notice will be posted when the list is live and ready to accept orders. The online system gives access to pictures of the plants, which is a very popular feature. If you do not have internet access, your order will be given the same priority as we allow time for post to reach all areas of the world before we start making up orders.

Please can you help in any way? The Seed Exchange relies on the goodwill and generosity of about 200 volunteers who help in various ways and in various places. I am grateful to everyone who helps, but in an operation of this size we always need new helpers. In late October we need helpers to file and number seed in the mid-Lancashire area. In November we need helpers to pack seed in their own homes. In late November, December and January we need helpers to rack up seed and make up orders at Pershore. If you live nearby and can help out for a few hours or a day, please get in touch. Or, if you live further away, could you organise a car-load of people from your Local Group to come to Pershore for a day to help make up orders? Please consider if you could help this year.

Diane Clement, Director of Seed Exchange.

Email: diane.clement@agsgroups.org Phone: 01902 426024

Regulations for US members wishing to order seed through the AGS Seed Exchange

US members who wish to order seed must send in an Import Permit with their order. If you already have a permit, please check that it is still valid until March 2016 to allow time for postage of your seed order and administrative work by the USDA.

Permits are free and will be valid for 3 years. Details about the permit can be found at:

www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/smalllots_seed.shtml

To apply for a permit online, click on 'Plants and Plant Products Permits' then select PPQ 587 – Application to import plants and plant products, where you will be able to register and apply for a permit. Or you can download PPQ Form 587, print it and fill it in. The completed and signed application must be sent to the address at the end of the instructions. You will then be sent a permit to import small lots of seed and the green and yellow mailing labels, with the address of the Inspection Station already printed on them.

Can I please advise members that the station at New York does give rise to two problems. Firstly, it is the busiest station and seed can be subjected to delay. Secondly, there are problems as the postal system frequently sends the packets to Jamaica, West Indies, instead of Jamaica, New York. Our advice is to choose an alternative Station; for example, Linden, New Jersey, or any of the designated ports of entry which can be found here:

www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/plant_inspection_stations.shtml

To order seed, you will have to mail a photocopy of your import permit and one green and yellow label for every 50 packets or fewer that you order (50 to 100 packets will require 2 permits and 2 green and yellow labels, etc). Please either mail this with your order or, if you order online, please post your permit directly to me at my address which will be printed in the seed list booklet. You do not need to provide an address label. Please consult on the website the lists of seeds which are not allowed under the permit. We will not send seed which is banned from entry to the USA, including seed for which treatment is required, so it would be helpful if you refer to the lists in advance. There are also useful lists of banned species on the NARGS site under Seed Exchange.

The AGS Seed Exchange team will place inside the package with your seeds: a list of your seed order according to the requirements on the permit, the copy of your permit and a printed label with your name and address. Our team will paste the green and yellow label on the outside, to direct the package to the Inspection Station. At the Station, your seeds will be checked and then resealed, and the mailing label will be pasted on the outside of the shipment. The order will be then forwarded to you from the USDA Station. Details of these arrangements will also be provided with the seed list, but it is better to have your permit available at that time so as not to delay your order. Seed cannot be sent without the correct permit and green/yellow address labels. Please include your email address on your seed order in case we need to get in touch with you.

Diane Clement, Director of Seed Exchange

Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean



ORDER FORM (or order on the AGS website)

Membership number: _____

Order to be sent to (block capitals please): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post/Zip code: _____

Address to which your credit/debit card statement is sent, if different: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post/Zip code: _____

Please supply _____ copies of Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean

Cover price: £38 AGS pre-publication price: just £27
Postage and packing: UK £4.50 EU airmail £8
Rest of the world surface £10 (airmail add £10 to surface price)

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to AGS Publications Limited or please charge my debit/credit card with £ _____ as instructed below.

Visa/MasterCard/American Express details (no extra charge for paying by credit card)

Name on card: _____

Card number: Security code:

Start date: _____ Expiry date: _____ Issue No. (some debit cards): _____

Send this form to AGS Centre, Avon Bank, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3JP, UK.

PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER: SAVE 29%

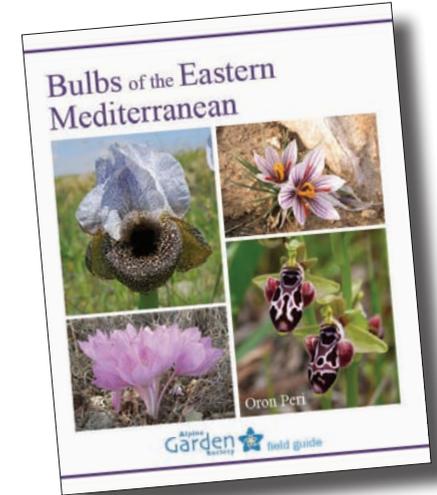
Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean by Oron Peri, published by the Alpine Garden Society

The Eastern Mediterranean countries of Israel, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Cyprus and north-east Egypt offer a rich and varied bulbous flora.

In this field guide more than 400 species are illustrated with over 600 beautiful images, making it an essential reference work for everyone with an interest in bulbous plants. There is extensive coverage of alliums, irises, crocuses and colchicums, as well as genera that have a smaller but important representation in the area, such as cyclamen, fritillaries and scillas.

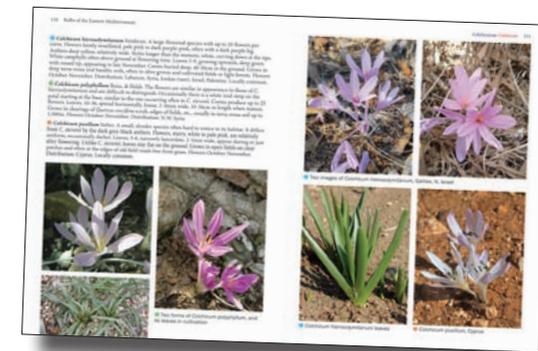
The author Oron Peri has been fascinated by bulbous plants since his childhood, studying and growing them where he lives in Israel. He is a plantsman, garden designer, writer, photographer and a leader of botanical tours in various parts of the world.

Many of the plants featured in the book are from locations which, because of the political situation in this area,



most people will never visit. We may never see these plants in the wild but this book is a beautifully illustrated substitute.

Bulbs of the Eastern Mediterranean will be published in November/December this year, in time for Christmas. AGS members are being offered the opportunity to order it now at a pre-publication discount of 29 per cent for just £27. Please use the order form opposite. This book must be ordered separately from other books on our list.



Order code	Title and author	Members' price
GENERAL ALPINE TITLES		
032	Alpine Gardening for Beginners by John Good	£6.50
772	Alpines from Mountain to Garden by Richard Wilford	£23.00
028	Alpine Plants: Ecology for Gardeners by John Good & David Millward	£12.00
292	Alpines: An Essential Guide by Michael Mitchell	£15.00
024	Alpines in Pots (New Edition) by Kath Dryden	£4.00
857	Growing Alpines in Containers by John Good	£5.00
033	Portraits of Alpine Plants by Robert Rolfe **LOW PRICE**	£15.00
026	The Crevice Garden and its Plants by Zdenek Zvolanek **NEW EDITION**	£6.50
729	The Rock Garden Plant Primer by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£16.00
SPECIFIC GENERA		
019	Androsace: The Genus by G.F. Smith & D.B. Lowe **LAST FEW COPIES**	£8.00
890	The Plant Lover's Guide to Asters by Paul and Helen Picton *NEW TITLE*	£14.50
694	Bleeding Hearts, Corydalis & Their Relatives by Mark C Tebbitt et al	£20.00
277	Dwarf Campanulas by Graham Nicholls	£12.00
374	Epimedium: The Genus by William T Stearn	£36.50
891	The Plant Lover's Guide to Epimediums by Sally Gregson **NEW TITLE**	£14.50
271	Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide by C. Colston Burrell and J. Knott Tyler	£20.00
248	Heucheras & Heucherellas by Dan Heims & Grahame Ware	£16.00
778	The Book of Little Hostas by Kathy Guest Shadrack & Michael Shadrack	£14.50
881	Meconopsis by Christopher Grey-Wilson **NEW TITLE**	£54.50
283	Peony Rockii and Gansu Mudan by Will McLewin and Dezhong Chen	£25.00
799	Phlox: A Natural History and Gardener's Guide by James H Locklear	£28.00
669	The Daylily: A Guide for Gardeners by John Peat and Ted Petit	£18.00
282	The Genus Roscoea by Jill Cowley	£33.50
887	The Plant Lover's Guide to Dahlias by Andy Vernon **NEW TITLE**	£14.50
700	Saxifrages: A Definitive Guide by Malcolm McGregor	£28.00
021	Silver Saxifrages by Beryl Bland **LOW PRICE**	£3.00
766	Thyme Handbook by Margaret Easter and Susie White	£8.00
BULBOUS PLANTS		
843	A Gardener's Guide to Bulbs by Christine Skelmersdale	£20.00
866	A Gardener's Guide to Snowdrops by Freda Cox	£28.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
599	Autumn Bulbs by Rod Leeds	£8.00
027	Bulbous Plants of Turkey and Iran by Peter Sheasby	£25.00
034	Bulbs of Greece (A Field Guide to the) by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£20.00
280	Buried Treasures by Janis Ruksans	£24.00
653	Calochortus: Mariposa Lilies & their Relatives **LOW PRICE**	£5.00
798	Crocuses: A Complete Guide to the Genus by Janis Ruksans	£24.00
268	Cyclamen by Christopher Grey-Wilson (booklet) **LOW PRICE**	£2.50
864	Daffodil by Noel Kingsbury **LOW PRICE**	£10.50
852	Genus Cyclamen edited by Brian Mathew	£72.00
	Special postage rates: UK £13.50; EU £16; rest of the world £19 (airmail £31)	
317	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Bulbs by Graham Duncan	£15.50
241	Kirstenbosch Gardening Series – Grow Agapanthus by Graham Duncan	£4.50
880	The Genus Erythronium by Chris Clennett	£40.00
861	The Genus Lachenalia by Graham Duncan	£96.00
882	The Plant Lover's Guide to Snowdrops by Naomi Slade	£14.50
860	Growing Garden Bulbs by Richard Wilford	£5.50
246	Snowdrops Booklet by Jackie Murray (second edition, 2011)	£3.50
859	The Genus Tulipa by Diana Everett	£54.50
266	Tulips (Species & Hybrids for the Gardener) by Richard Wilford **LOW PRICE**	£6.00
892	The Plant Lover's Guide to Tulips by Richard Wilford **NEW TITLE**	£14.50
868	Wild Flowers of Turkey: Bulbous Plants by Yasemin Konuralp	£25.00
ORCHIDS		
265	Growing Hardy Orchids by John Tullock	£16.00
804	Growing Hardy Orchids by Philip Seaton et al	£10.00
642	Growing Orchids from Seed	£7.50
846	Hardy Cypripedium by Werner Frosch and Phillip Cribb	£36.00
698	Ophrys: The Bee Orchids of Europe by H Aerenlund Pedersen & N Faurholdt	£27.00
274	Orchids of Britain & Ireland (A Field & Site Guide) by Anne & Simon Harrap	£24.00
597	Orchids of the British Isles by Michael Foley & Sidney Clarke	£36.00
349	The Genus Cypripedium by Phillip Cribb	£58.50
SUCCULENTS AND CACTI		
741	Cacti and Succulents for Cold Climates by Leo J Chance	£20.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
749	Succulent Container Gardens by Debra Lee Baldwin	£16.00
883	The Plant Lover's Guide to Sedums by Brent Horvath **NEW TITLE**	£14.50
264	Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World by Fred Dortort	£28.00
TREES & SHRUBS		
840	A Natural History of Conifers by Aljos Farjon	£24.00
775	Conifers (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Richard L. Bitner	£12.00
652	Conifers for Gardens by Richard L Bitner	£32.00
621	Dirr's Encyclopedia Of Trees & Shrubs by Michael A Dirr	£40.00
746	Hardy Heathers from the Northern Hemisphere by E Charles Nelson	£48.00
755	Japanese Maples by JD Vertrees & Peter Gregory	£28.00
660	Japanese Maples (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by P Gregory & J C Vertrem	£12.00
761	Palms (Timber Press Pocket Guide) by Robert Lee Riffle	£12.00
316	Shrubs: A Gardener's Handbook by Ian Cooke	£8.00
267	The Genus Sorbus (Mountain Ash & other Rowans) by Hugh McAllister	£30.00
735	The Pruning of Trees, Shrubs and Conifers by George Brown	£12.00
250	Timber Press Encyclopedia of Flowering Shrubs by Jim Gardiner	£28.00
FLORAS, FIELD GUIDES AND PLANT EXPLORATION		
680	Endemic Plants of the Altai Mountain Country by A I Pyak et al	£25.00
885	Fathers of Botany by Jane Kilpatrick	£32.00
245	Flowers of Crete by John Fielding and Nicholas Turland	£56.00
733	Flowers of Greece (set of 2 with DVD) by T Lafranchis & G Sfikas	£95.00
867	Flowers of the Patagonian Mountains by Martin Sheader	£32.00
808	Flowers of Western China by Christopher Grey-Wilson	£56.00
873	Harrap's Wild Flowers by Simon Harrap	£13.50
101	In the Footsteps of Augustine Henry by Seamus O'Brien	£32.00
569	Mountain Flowers: The Dolomites by Cliff Booker & David Charlton	£7.00
809	Mountain Flower Walks: Eastern Alps Incl. The Dolomites by Jim Jermyn	£10.00
031	Mountain Flower Walks: Greek Mainland by John Richards **LOW PRICE**	£10.00
454	Frank Kingdon Ward's Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges	£28.00
871	Patagonian Mountain Flower Holidays by Hilary Little **NEW TITLE**	£24.00
696	Plantsman's Paradise – Travels in China by Roy Lancaster	£32.00
697	Seeds of Adventure – In Search of plants by Peter Cox & Peter Hutchinson	£28.00

Order code	Title and author	Members' price
730	Swiss Plant Life by Ewald Weber	£20.00
478	The Caucasus and its Flowers by Vojtech Holubec & Pavel Krivka	£45.00
884	Wild Flowers of Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park by J Alonso NEW	£12.50
874	Wild Flowers of the Algarve by C. Thorogood and S. Hiscock	£28.00
NEW SUNFLOWER TRAVEL GUIDES **NEW**		
894	Lake Geneva & Western Switzerland	£12.00
895	Madeira	£10.00
896	Northern Portugal	£10.00
737	Picos de Europa	£10.00
897	Pyrenees	£10.00
898	Sicily	£10.00
899	Southern Peloponnese	£10.00
900	Turkish Coast: Antalya to Demre	£12.00
901	Western Crete	£10.00
GARDEN DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION		
303	Colour in the Garden by Val Bourne	£15.00
565	Designing and Planting Borders by Roger Harvey	£10.00
103	Designing Small Gardens by Ian Cooke	£8.00
807	Designing With Conifers by Richard L. Bitner	£16.00
838	Rock Landscapes: The Pulham Legacy by Claude Hitching	£28.00
854	Planting: A New Perspective by Piet Oudolf & Noel Kingsbury	£24.00
PHOTOGRAPHY		
631	Digital Photography (A-Z of Creative) by Lee Frost	£12.00
704	Macro Photography for Gardeners and Nature Lovers by Alan L Detrick	£15.00
OTHER TITLES		
774	Bees, Wasps and Ants (The Indispensable Role of Hymenoptera in Gardens)	£15.00
773	Container Plants (The Encyclopaedia of) by Ray Rogers & Rob Cardillo	£20.00
886	Designing and Planting a Woodland Garden by Keith Wiley	£20.00
336	Encyclopedia of Garden Ferns by Sue Olsen	£32.00
855	Encyclopedia of Exotic Plants by Will Giles	£28.00
610	Gardening with Woodland Plants by Karan Junker	£24.00
849	Marianne North: A Very Intrepid Painter by Michelle Payne	£9.50

News from the AGS Trustee Board

Those AGS shows which followed the financial procedures and submitted completed show accounts in a timely manner are to be thanked. As a result, it was possible to organise an early audit of these accounts and a return of funds has now been made to the respective groups associated with these shows.

Promotional audio-visual displays authorised earlier in the year have now been produced and used at various events to help recruitment.

The Local Group consultation process is still ongoing but unfortunately many groups have failed to respond to requests for information. This has hampered progress.

Members received a report on the structure and activities of the RHS/AGS/SRGC Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee. There is to be a Joint Rock Alpine Day at Wisley on October 1, 2015, and each society will be represented.

A further redevelopment of the website was approved and funding set aside to kick-start this process. As part of this, a questionnaire will be sent to a section of the membership to obtain their views. Other research will be carried out to help shape the re-design of the site.

A representative from the Board has attended two meetings organised by the RHS to discuss the implications of the Nagoya Protocol. The Board received a report on these discussions and will be kept informed of developments and any implications for the Society.

The Board received a report from the Society Director about assistance for the AGS Fritillaria Group. The Society will help with the production and mailing of the group's newsletter and help to collect subscriptions for the group in liaison with its treasurer.

The Board gave approval for an AGS display in the Great Pavilion at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show next year. This will be the first such display for three years and external sponsorship is being sought. The Board is also giving consideration to making funds available for recruitment activities at other events.

The organisation of the AGS Photographic Competition and the Photography classes at AGS shows were discussed. The Board is looking at ways to boost and improve these currently separate competitions and consultations are ongoing.

SEED ENVELOPES FOR SALE

Glassine envelopes, as used in the AGS Seed Exchange, are available in two sizes:

Small 73 x 41mm self-adhesive **50 for £3**

Large 98 x 64mm unglued **50 for £4**

Order from the AGS Centre (details on page 2)

Postage is free to UK members

Overseas members should contact the AGS Centre for postage rates



WIN PRIZES IN OUR ONLINE SHOW

Ever wondered how that plant in your garden would have fared at an AGS show? Or did you have a potential star plant that never quite made it 'on to the bench'? Or are there no AGS shows for you to 'show' at?

The AGS Online Show offers an opportunity for all members, including international members, to participate in an AGS show. Plants exhibited must have been cultivated by the exhibitor and photographed during the season of the show. This is not a photographic competition but photographs should be good enough to display a plant's true qualities.

The AGS is providing gift vouchers as prizes. In 2015 three prizes are available, each consisting of £40 worth of vouchers. The categories for which the prizes are awarded are:

- The best entry of a single species, variety of a species or hybrid. The entry may contain more than one specimen (for example, a clump of bulbs).
- The best entry of a group of more than one variety of plant in a garden setting or in a container such as a trough.
- The highest number of 'first prize points'.



Kirsten Andersen's *Daphne cneorum* var. *pygmaea* 'Herskind Star' won 'best entry of a single species, variety of a species or hybrid' in 2014



Congratulations to members of the Southport Local Group of the AGS who won a Silver-gilt Medal for their display to promote the Society at this year's Southport Flower Show. AGS Vice-president and one of the organisers of the display, Brian Russ, right, is pictured with the award.

WESTERN TURKEY

March 28-April 11, 2016

Leaders: Bob & Rannveig Wallis

Cost: In the region of £2,850 per person including flights

The Mediterranean region of Turkey is a botanical gem that no one interested in spring bulbs should miss. The varying geology, climate and altitude have permitted a diverse evolution of many geophytic genera and we invite you to explore them with us.

The tour will be led by Bob and Rannveig Wallis with their popular Turkish Guide, Alper Ertubey of Hike and Sail. We aim to start and finish in Dalaman Airport and take a figure-of-eight tour starting along the south coast to the spectacular Datça peninsula and then inland to Boz Dağ and Nif Dağ before heading south-eastwards back towards the south coast. The dates have been chosen to match the tour leaders' experiences of flowering times in this area. Although we will pinpoint certain very local species (12 species of *Fritillaria* can be hoped for), the whole area is a flower garden of anemones, the occasional *Ranunculus asiaticus*, lots of orchids, *Corydalis*, *Crocus*, *Galanthus*, *Sternbergia*, *Scilla* and so on.

We will take in:

- The famous Baba Dağ which supports the only known population of *Fritillaria forbesii* and of the white *Sternbergia candida* among the fabulous cedars.
- The forests which support both subspecies of *Fritillaria sibthorpiana*.



- Sites for *Fritillaria mughlae* and *F. bithynica* on the spectacular route to Datça.
 - The area of Milaş with its wonderful umbrella pine forests and swathes of *Fritillaria milasense*.
 - Two mountains called Boz Dağ: the first, the home of *Chionodoxa luciliae* and *Corydalis lydica*; the second supports a large population of a deep yellow *Fritillaria carica*, a high-altitude form of *Sternbergia fischeriana* and lots of the beautiful blue *Crocus baytopiorum* and *C. biflorus*.
 - A minibus trip up Nif Dağ where we should see more *Fritillaria carica*.
 - The serpentine summits from where *Fritillaria serpenticola* was first found.
 - Swarms of *Fritillaria kittaniae* on the limestone plateau of the Sinekçibeli Pass.
- Travel will be in a small bus and we aim to use minibuses to access some of the higher routes. There will inevitably be some walking on rough terrain in order to find the best plants but it should not involve prolonged uphill or downhill treks. Accommodation will be in three-star hotels or equivalent.



DRAKENSBERG, SOUTH AFRICA

January 9-25, 2016

Leader: Callan Cohen

Tour manager: David Haselgrove

Cost: £4,200 per person

South Africa's rugged Drakensberg Mountains form the spine of the eastern part of the country and have a completely different flora from the Cape that lies over 1,500km away on the south-west coast.

The elevated Drakensberg escarpment, with its dramatic basalt cliffs overlooking sandstone valleys, lies at about 3,000m above sea level and is home to true alpine vegetation. It's from these heights that early explorers brought hardy plants back to Europe which have subsequently flourished in cultivation, including species of *Agapanthus*, *Dierama*, *Eucomis*, *Nerine*, *Gladiolus*, *Moraea*,

Phygelius, *Galtonia* and *Kniphofia* (above), and which will be a focus of our tour. The mountains also have a high diversity of orchids, including *Satyrium*, *Holothrix*, *Eulophia*, *Disa*, *Pterygodium*, *Brownleea* and the special genus *Huttonea*, with its fimbriate lips, which is found only in this area.

Midsummer is the peak flowering season and we'll also watch out for pollinators, from sunbirds to the mountain beauty (*Aeropetes tulbaghia*) butterfly.

This tour will focus on the different altitudes, rainfall zones and geologies to get the most from this area. We'll explore from the northern areas of the Drakensberg around the Sentinel Peak, through to the Sani Pass and the Lesotho plateau, known for its sweeping views and bushmen's paintings.

Most of our exploration will take place from famous passes and the walking effort will be easy to moderate, with the option of a longer walk at the Sentinel in search of 'specials'.

For further information on this tour please contact the AGS Centre.
Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net

For further information on this tour please contact the AGS Centre.
Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net

PERU JUST TWO PLACES LEFT!

Dates: around March 22-April 11, 2016

Leader: Harry Jans

Price: in the region of £4,800

Following on from the highly successful first AGS tour in 2014, a return trip is scheduled in 2016. This tour will take in some of the areas visited on the last tour as well as exploring new territory.

Peru, well-known as the land of the Incas, awakens the imagination for many tourists. It boasts the cultural capital of South America, Cusco; the lost city of Machu Picchu; the Colca Canyon, the deepest in the world; Arequipa and Lima, both World Heritage cities; and the Cordillera Blanca, a hiking paradise.

This tour is designed for the nature and plant lover. Peru has three major ecosystems: coast, highlands and jungle, and over 80 micro-ecosystems. Its geographic position in the central Andes means it has a huge number of plant species, around 15,000. Still many species remain to be discovered.

This tour includes three highlights of the Andean region: Arequipa and the Colca Canyon; Cusco and the Sacred Valley with the option to visit Machu Picchu; and a four-day visit to the



Cordillera Blanca. Expect to see the most fantastic landscapes and plants such as cushions, ground rosettes, giant bromeliads, colourful gentianellas in boglands and plenty of others.

The botanical exploration will combine nature and the cultural elements of Peru. Almost every day will involve the exploration of remote areas by four-wheel drive vehicle. Most of the roads are paved but in places like Huascaran National Park and Colca Canyon you will travel over some bumpy gravel roads. Hotel accommodation will include breakfast, lunch and dinner.

LAST CHANCE! There is only one place left on the AGS tour to Sichuan, China, from June 9-28, 2016, to be led by Chris Bailes. Details on our website or contact the AGS Centre.

For further information on this tour please contact the AGS Centre. Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net

AUTUMN BULBS OF THE PELOPONNESE

Departure around October 25, 2016

Leader: Christopher Grey-Wilson

Cost: to be confirmed

The Greek Peloponnese offers a plethora of autumn bulbs such as crocuses, colchicums, cyclamen, sternbergias, a scilla and a snowdrop, besides a rich assortment of other autumnal flowers. Nowhere else in the Mediterranean region offers such a rich assortment of autumn bulbs and this tour is designed to see as many as possible.

From the ancient Greek site at Delphi, to world famous Olympia and the Byzantine churches of Mistras on the slopes of the Taygetos Mountains close to Sparta, the tour encompasses some of the finest archaeological sites in southern Greece. There will be the chance to enjoy the harbours at Nafpaktos and Gythio and to explore the ancient alleyways of Monemvasia, and the stern beauty of the Mani Peninsula.

The tour will start in Athens and travel by coach to Amfissa near Delphi before heading south into the Peloponnese via Nafpaktos. Accommodation will be in hotels with meals in local tavernas.

There will be walks, none too strenuous, and ample time to see, observe and photograph the flowers and sites. The leader has an intimate knowledge of the flora of the region and in the evenings there will be time to reflect on the day's finds and to enjoy the splendid Greek autumn.



ITINERARY

- Day 1** – Fly to Athens. Travel on to Amfissa.
- Day 2** – Delphi and Mount Parnassus. Stay in Amfissa.
- Day 3** – Travel by old road to Nafpaktos.
- Day 4** – Travel to Olympia and then on to Sparta.
- Day 5** – Mistras and Profitis Elias; stay in Sparta.
- Day 6** – Travel to Gythio.
- Day 7** – Mani Peninsula; Areopolis, Pyrgos Dirou and Vathia.
- Day 8** – Travel to Monemvasia, Sykia and Lambokambos.
- Day 9** – Monemvasia.
- Day 10** – Nafplion.
- Day 11** – Athens and home.

For further information on this tour please contact the AGS Centre. Phone 01386 554790 or email ags@alpinegardensociety.net



The city of Ronda and, right, a *Narcissus triandrus* hybrid



NARCISSI OF WESTERN IBERIA

February 28-March 9, 2016

Leaders: Ian Bennallick & Oron Peri

**Cost: From London, £2,195
Faro to Malaga, £1,820**

This tour takes us to the *Narcissus* hotspot of Iberia, the centre of evolution and diversity of these wonderful flowers.

In central Portugal drifts of *Narcissus asturiensis* and *Crocus carpetanus* colour the mountains of the Serra da Estrela. *Narcissus calcicola* and *Narcissus obesus* prefer the rugged limestone of the Serra de Porto de Mós, while in the coastal Serra da Arrábida, *Narcissus bulbocodium* is abundant among *Tulipa sylvestris*, *Arisarum simorrhinum* and *Anemone palmata*. *Narcissus triandrus*

(and some fine hybrids with the rare *Narcissus scaberulus*) and sweetly scented *Narcissus papyraceus* enjoy loamy banks in the Tagus basin. In Andalusia we'll encounter *Narcissus assoanus* and endemic *Narcissus cuatrecasasii*. *Narcissus hispanicus* is plentiful in Spanish fir forests, and in the Sierra de Alcaparain is ghostly *Narcissus cantabricus*.

Narcissus bulbocodium, *Narcissus cordubensis* and *Narcissus jonquilla* adorn meadows dotted with cork oaks. Based in one of Andalusia's most beautiful 'white villages', peaceful Benaoján, we'll also find plentiful orchids, fritillaries and linarias in rich limestone turf, while cliffs hold a plethora of charming saxifrages and elegant *Ornithogalum reverchonii*.

Call Greentours on 01298 83563, email enquiries@greentours.co.uk or visit the website at www.greentours.co.uk



Purple and yellow forms of *Iris reichenbachiana*

GREEK RHODOPI

April 23-30, 2016

Leaders: Ian Green & Seda Soylu

**Cost: From London, £1,495
Thessaloniki to Thessaloniki, £1,295**

This area boasts some of the most dramatic scenery in Greece. Mounts Phalakron and Orvilos have a colourful pastiche of *Crocus chrysanthus* mixing with blue *Scilla biflora* and both white and deep pink forms of *Corydalis solida*. Rarer is the local endemic *Crocus orphei*, a lovely plant with indigo-streaked undersides to the tepals.

Wands of deep red *Saxifraga sempervivum* emerge from glaucous rosettes on roadside rocks. Totally

amazing groups of huge-flowered *Pulsatilla halleri* bloom across alpine turf, also littered with tight clumps of *Viola perinensis*, whose lilac and blue heads completely obscure the leaves. Under Rhodopi's famous forests are green-belled *Fritillaria pontica*, *Soldanella rhodopaea* and remarkable displays of *Crocus veluchensis*, which stretch in their millions across the hills towards the Bulgarian border.

Lower down are *Fritillaria graeca* and *Orchis quadripunctata* as well as the strange endemic *Lathraea rhodopaea*. Cascades of pale mauve *Haberlea rhodopensis* drape the limestone cliffs of the Nestos Gorge, jostling for space with both yellow and purple forms of *Iris reichenbachiana*.

Call Greentours on 01298 83563, email enquiries@greentours.co.uk or visit the website at www.greentours.co.uk



Calypso bulbosa and, right,
Trillium grandiflorum



TRILLIUMS OF ONTARIO

May 8-22, 2016

Leaders: Owen Mountford & Jennifer MacDonald

Cost: From London, £3,745
From Toronto, £3,325

Between winter snows and summer leaf-burst, there's a magical time in Ontario's woodlands – the great spring flower show. The provincial flower, *Trillium grandiflorum*, blooms throughout in magnificent stands of white and green, often with dark red *Trillium erectum*.

With plentiful yellow trout lilies are *Streptopus lanceolatus*, *uvularias*, nodding trilliums, jack-in-the-pulpits and the colourful Indian paintbrush. Pitcher plants and goldthread emerge

from mossy black pine-dotted bogs and there's fringed *Polygala* and trailing *Arbutus*, and fantastic shows of *Trillium undulatum*.

The impressively diverse tertiary relict Carolinian forests of the Niagara Gorge are rich in spring ephemerals including more trilliums, dicentras, *Corydalis* and stands of lovely aquilegias. The limestone pavement of the botanically rich Bruce Peninsula is tinged blue with endemic dwarf lake iris and gold with the lakeside daisy. Orchids include the first flowers of small yellow lady's slipper, the tiny red and white ram's-head lady's slipper, and striped coralroot, *Corallorhiza striata*. Even these can't beat lovely colonies of *Calypso bulbosa* nestling among bright green mosses.

Call Greentours on 01298 83563, email enquiries@greentours.co.uk or visit the website at www.greentours.co.uk



Allium flavum and, right,
Leontopodium alpinum or edelweiss



SLOVAKIA

June 24-July 2, 2016

Leaders: Martin Hrouzek & Oron Peri

Cost: From London, £1,995
Bratislava to Krakow, £1,820

The High Tatras reach 2,500m yet chairlifts and roads provide easy access to the highest regions where we'll find ciliate rock-jasmine, blue saxifrage, edelweiss, and Styrian, spotted and snow gentians. There's also *Campanula tatrae*, and the rare orchid *Chamorchis alpina*.

Primula minima, *Anemone scherfelii*, *Ranunculus glacialis*, *Saxifraga carpatica*, *Erysimum hungaricum*, *Callianthemum coriandrifolium* and half a dozen species of pretty milk vetch are

just some of the high alpine gems.

Here meadows and forests host round-headed orchid, moor king, Jacob's ladder, and both Hungarian and Carpathian snowbells. Clumps of endemic pink *Dianthus nitidus* mix with musky saxifrage, *Campanula serrata*, *Tozzia carpatica*, *Gentianella fatrae* and *Androsace lactea* in the White Carpathians, the western edge of the great Carpathian mountain chain. Abundant Martagon lilies, dense-flowered orchid, marsh gladiolus and *Melampyrum cristatum* bloom in some the richest meadows in Europe.

Call Greentours on 01298 83563, email enquiries@greentours.co.uk or visit the website at www.greentours.co.uk

Autumn Conference booking form: **NEW VENUE**

AT THE HOLIDAY INN, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Two-day residential delegates:

£190 per person for one night with breakfast in a shared room at the Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon, two hot buffet lunches and three-course Conference Dinner

£220 per person for one night with breakfast in a single room at the Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon, two hot buffet lunches and three-course Conference Dinner

Day delegates:

£50 for Saturday including lunch; £60 for Sunday including lunch

The four-star Holiday Inn is situated on the riverside in the centre of Stratford-upon-Avon. The hotel is set in landscaped gardens and has parking for 350 cars. Stratford train station is one mile from the hotel.

Please tick as applicable or book on our website

We would like to reserve two residential places in a shared room (total £380)

I would like to reserve a residential place in a single room (total £220)

I/we would like to reserve day delegate places for Saturday including lunch (£50 each)

I/we would like to reserve day delegate places for Sunday including lunch (£60 each)

A non-refundable deposit of £50 per person is payable at the time of booking.

YOUR DETAILS (block capitals please):

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Country/country _____

Post/Zip code: _____

CHEQUE PAYMENT

I/we enclose a remittance of £ _____ made payable to the Alpine Garden Society.

CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD (Visa/MasterCard/American Express/Switch)

Please charge my card £ _____

Name on card _____

Card number Security code

Start date _____ Expiry date _____ Issue No. (some debit cards) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

All information is protected by the Data Protection Act. Your information will not be disclosed to a third party. However, the AGS may wish to pass your details to our local groups. If you do not wish to receive information from our local groups then please tick this box.